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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
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FOR EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE

PLEASE PASS TO THE WHITE HOUSE FOR THE PRESIDENT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, PGOV, ETRD, AS, UR, CH
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER FRASER

1. THE PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. MALCOLM FRASER WERE HOSTS AT A DINNER THE EVENING OF MAY 18 IN THEIR SUITE AT THE HILTON HOTEL IN MELBOURNE TO HONOR GOVERNOR AND MRS. AVERELL HARRIMAN, WHO WERE IN AUSTRALIA TO REPRESENT THE PRESIDENT AT THE FUNERAL OF SIR ROBERT MENZIES. ELKIN AND I WERE PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN INCLUDED.

2. THE CONVERSATION WAS LIVELY AND INTERESTING, BUT I AM ABLE TO RECALL NOTHING OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE HAVING BEEN SAID. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SESSION WAS ITS ATMOSPHERE. OBVIOUSLY THE PRIME MINISTER WAS PLEASED WITH THE PRESIDENT'S SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND MADE THAT CLEAR.

3. BOTH GOVERNOR AND MRS. HARRIMAN SPOKE WITH AFFECTION OF
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SIR ROBERT AND THEIR PRIOR EXPERIENCES WITH HIM. THEY HAD KNOWN HIM WELL.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER USED THE OCCASION TO SING HIS SONG OF "ACCESS TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY", AND RESTATED HIS PROPOSITION THAT ONLY THE PRESIDENT HAD THE STRENGTH TO BRING ORDER TO WORLD MARKETS. HE TOUCHED LIGHTLY

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ON "THE COMMON FUND" TO AID THE THIRD WORLD.

5. IN AN ASIDE WHEN LABOR RELATIONS WAS THE TOPIC, THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT AUSTRALIA LOST FEWER MAN HOURS THROUGH WORK STOPPAGE THAN DID THE UNITED STATES. HE EMPHASIZED THE SERIOUSNESS OF INFLATION AND MAINTAINED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD TO TAKE THE LEAD IN SOLVING THIS WORLDWIDE PROBLEM. HE CLAIMED THAT AUSTRALIA WAS MAKING MORE PROGRESS IN SLOWING INFLATION THAN WAS THE UNITED STATES.

6. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED FEAR OF A RUSSIAN BUILDUP OF ARMS, AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT ALLOW ITS FORCES, PARTICULARLY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, TO BE SO WEAK AS TO NOT BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO ANZUS. THE GOVERNOR HAD RECALLED ANZUS AND ITS EARLY BEGINNINGS AND THE FACT THAT ANZUS WAS A TWO-WAY ENGAGEMENT.

7. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS INTEREST IN AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SSOD.

8. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THE PRIME MINISTER MENTIONED WAS IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE GOVERNOR ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF A VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO RUSSIA. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WAS NOT CLEAR YET THAT HE WAS GOING, ALTHOUGH THE PROSPECT OF SUCH HAD BEEN
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ANNOUNCED. HE SAID THAT IF HE DID GO TO RUSSIA IT WOULD BE ON THE BASIS THAT AUSTRALIA REALIZED A BENEFIT FROM ITS TRADING RELATIONS, THAT HERETOFORE THE RUSSIAN PURCHASES HAD NOT BEEN REGULAR AND THUS UNRELIABLE AND ALWAYS TO THE RUSSIAN ADVANTAGE PRICEWISE. HE SAID AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONSHIP TO CHINA WAS A MORE SATISFACTORY ONE, AND CASUALLY MENTIONED THAT THE CHINESE PAID IN CASH.

9. THE MOST MEANINGFUL PIECE OF CONVERSATION WAS WHEN THE GOVERNOR DESCRIBED THE PRESIDENT AS A STRONG MAN AND A SOUND MAN AND ONE WHO HAS BEEN, BECAUSE OF CONFUSED AND CONFLICTING PRESS ANALYSIS, DESCRIBED ERRONEOUSLY AS INDECISIVE. AND THE GOVERNOR PUT CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS ON THE PRESIDENT'S RECENT VICTORY IN THE MIDDLE EAST THREE-WAY ARMS DEAL. I FELT IT IMPORTANT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER RECEIVE AN AFFIRMATIVE CURRENT EVALUATION OF THE PRESIDENT AND OF HIS SIGNIFICANT VICTORY.

10. GOVERNOR HARRIMAN CONCURS IN THIS MESSAGE.
ALSTON

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